THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Government are not aware of any differential price system for liquefied natural gas (LNG) buyers of Europe and Asia by the suppliers.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of the above.

Production cost of petroleum products

†3740. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the production cost of Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene, Naphtha and LPG in the country;

(b) if so, what has been the average production cost of above items during the financial year 2001-2002 on the basis of indigenously produced crude oil; and

(c) whether Government have also taken a decision to keep prices of petroleum products in the country under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The production cost of individual petroleum products is not identified separately, since all the products are produced together.

However, upto 31.03.2002, the oil companies were paid import parity price for controlled petroleum products viz. PDS kerosene, domestic LPG, Diesel and Petrol. The average of the provisional tariff adjusted import parity price of these products for the year 2001-02 has been as under:

PDS Kerosene	Rs. 8530.37/KL
Domestic LPG	Rs. 13508.33/MT
Diesel	Rs. 9624.89/KL
Petrol	Rs. 8264.83/KL

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) With the dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, have become market determined.

Adulteration of fuel in capital

3741. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Hindu dated the 14th March, 2002 captioned "Adulteration of fuel rampant in the capital";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The facts are not correct in view of the following:—

(i) Out of 618 samples received from enforcing agencies and tested and reported by Society for Petroleum Laboratory (SFPL) upto 19.12.2001 the failure rate was 2.4%.

(ii) Anti Adultration Cell reported the failure rate of smaples in whole of north as around 1.5%.

(iii) Out of a total of 19754 samples tested by oil companies in the last one year, the failure rate was 1.2%.

In view of the above reporting by three agencies including one independent agency i.e. Anti Adulteration Cell, the results of Centre of Science and Environment (CSE) cannot be trusted. This can particularly be attributed to adoption of wrong methodology, handling and improper sampling and their inadequate expertise.